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subsequent round ups followed. Finally in the 1920s the federal government established small rancherias in the Oroville area for the Maidu. These rancherias still exist today and are known as Mooretown, Berry Creek, and Enterprise.

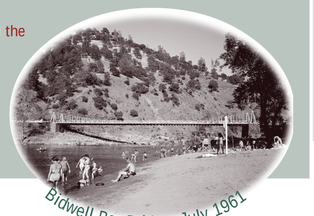
Maidu Involvement in the ALP

Today, Maidu representatives are actively engaged in the Alternative Licensing Procedure (ALP) for the Oroville Facilities Relicensing. The focus of discussions in the ALP's Cultural Resource Work Group is the preparation of an effective and comprehensive Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). The CRMP will provide a framework for the evaluation and protection of cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties. The Cultural Resource Work Group is considering several approaches that would allow for the survey and treatment of culturally significant sites.

While this year's low lake levels pose an immediate threat to the sites and artifacts at Lake Oroville, the CRMP will help guide the protection of these cultural resources during the life of the next license.

Did you know?

- At 770 feet high, Oroville Dam is the tallest dam in the United States. Oroville Dam is trailed by the Hoover Dam (730 ft.) on the Colorado River in Nevada and Dworshak Dam (717 ft.) on the North Fork of the Clearwater River in Idaho.
- At 3,540,000 acre-feet, Lake Oroville is the second largest reservoir in California and the twelfth largest in the United States. Compare that to Lake Shasta, California's largest reservoir at 4,552,000 acre-ft., and Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the U.S. at 28,255,000 acre-ft.
- Over 80 million cubic yards of sand, clay, and gravel were used to build the Oroville Dam. That's enough material to build a two-lane highway around the earth!
- The original Bidwell Bar Suspension Bridge built in 1856 was the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River. The bridge's towers were manufactured in New York and shipped around Cape Horn to their destination on the Feather River.



Bidwell Bar Bridge, July 1961

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generating additional power.

DWR attempts to minimize pump costs and maximize generation by carefully scheduling SWP operations. Specifically, when energy prices are low, most commonly during the weekend or weekday off-peak hours, water is pumped back into Lake Oroville for later power generation. When prices are high as they are during weekday on-peak hours, water is released through the Edward Hyatt Powerplant and the power generated is sold at market rates. Since the SWP uses more electricity than it generates, and therefore partially relies on purchase and trade of power, there is no long-range profit from the sale of SWP power.

Weather is a Factor

The amount of power generated at the Oroville Facilities is ultimately affected by the amount of annual runoff to the Feather River watershed. During dry years there is less water available to run through the powerplant and therefore less power available to operate the SWP. Over the past 16 years the range of generation has varied from below 1 billion kWh in 1991 and 1992 (critically dry years) to over 3.7 billion kWh in 1995 (a very wet year).

A dry year also means there is less water to move. This year with only 65% of normal snow accumulation and runoff in the Feather River watershed, power production at the Oroville Facilities will no doubt suffer. However, because of the lower water levels, the State Water Contractors will only receive 39% of their regular allocation of water compared to the 90% they received last year, an above normal water year for the SWP. Therefore, DWR will have to expend less power to move water. Nonetheless, the low water levels and high demand for power in California this summer will require DWR to effectively manage its resources and loads.

Welcome!

Welcome to the second issue of the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Newsletter. Please join us in participating in the most comprehensive environmental reviews ever done in the Oroville area... the relicensing of the Oroville Facilities (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2100). This newsletter is one of the key communication tools to help keep you informed during relicensing.

Public participation in this process is critical, therefore your comments and input are not only welcome, but encouraged.

GET ON THE LIST!

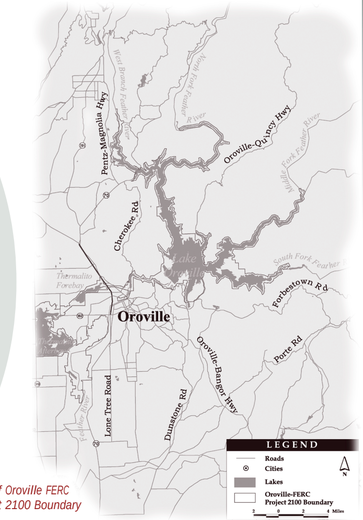
The Newsletter is a free publication. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us via e-mail or phone.

Toll-free number: 1-866-820-8198

E-mail: orovillep2100@water.ca.gov

STAY INFORMED!

Visit the project web site at http://OrovilleRelicensing.water.ca.gov to find continually updated information including relevant documents, a calendar of upcoming meetings, and summaries of past meetings.



Map of Oroville FERC Project 2100 Boundary

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OROVILLE FACILITIES RELICENSING Newsletter

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2100

Vol. 2, September 2001

Where We Are in the Relicensing Process

Participants in the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Collaborative Process are currently engaged in an Alternative Licensing Procedure (ALP) for preparing, filing, and processing the new license application for the Oroville Facilities. The ALP enables DWR and stakeholders to collaborate on terms and conditions proposed for the new license, and at the same time, fulfill the environmental documentation requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Oroville Facilities' Plenary Group is at a significant step in this process. They are reviewing a draft of the first Scoping Document (SD1).

The Scoping Process

Scoping is a key element of both the NEPA and CEQA processes, and is intended to provide the public with an understanding of the project and encourage active participation in the relicensing process (see Relicensing Terms on page 2). SD1 lays the foundation for this effort. It includes information about the project and identifies issues that have been identified as important to the participants involved. The content of SD1 was developed at the Work Group level by consolidating specific concerns/desires raised by agencies and participants into a number of issues, or Issue Statements.

Examples of Issue Statements included in SD1 are:

- Determine the effects of existing and future project facilities, operations and maintenance (including recreational developments and other land decisions) on cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect. (Cultural Resources Issue #CR3)
- Determine the effects of facilities operations on recreation and socioeconomic opportunities. (Recreation Issue #R3)

These Issue Statements will provide the foundation for study plan development by the Work Groups. Study plans are strategies for gathering credible scientific information relevant to decisions that will have to be made in the relicensing process.

Once the Plenary Group has completed their review of SD1, the next step is to make it available to the public for review and comment. DWR expects distribution of SD1 to occur this September.

Scoping Meetings

DWR will host two public scoping meetings, currently planned for October 2001. Comments received on SD1 and presented at the scoping meetings will be reflected in a revised SD1 in March 2002. The revised SD1 will include the study plans and provide an explanation on how public comments have been addressed and/or reflected in these plans. Scoping Document 2 (SD2) will be prepared and available to the public by late 2002. SD2 will help FERC and DWR:

- Identify environmental and social issues associated with the Oroville Facilities relicensing that will be addressed in the environmental documentation;

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- Identify reasonable alternatives that should be evaluated;
- Determine how much analysis is needed for each issue;
- Eliminate those issues that do not require a detailed analysis; and
- Identify how relicensing the Oroville Facilities would or would not contribute to indirect and cumulative impacts on the project area.

Now That You Know Where We Are… Get Involved!

As a member of the public you can get involved in this process by either commenting on SD1 once it has been released, attending a public scoping meeting (see announcement on this page), or by participating through the Work Groups. Information regarding times and dates of Work Group meetings and updates regarding the scoping process are available at the relicensing web site, http://OrovilleRelicensing.water.ca.gov or by calling DWR.

Public Scoping Meetings for Scoping Document 1

- **October 29, 2001 6:00 - 9:00 pm**
  Oroville State Theater, 1489 Myers St., Oroville, CA
- **October 30, 2001 1:00 - 4:00 pm**
  Secretary of State Auditorium, 1500 11th St., Sacramento, CA

Relicensing Terms

Scoping - An early and open public process for determining the issues to be addressed and identifying significant issues, and needed analysis related to a proposed action. Scoping invites participation by government agencies, tribes and other interested parties, identifying issues to be analyzed in depth, eliminate issues which are not significant, identifying other environmental review or consultation requirements, and identifying timing of environmental review, planning and decision-making.

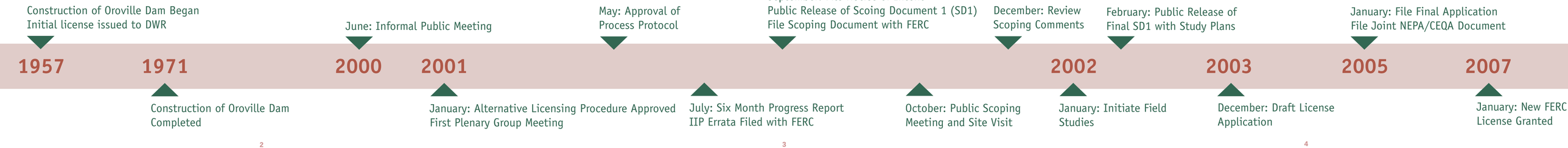
Scope - Range of actions, alternatives and impacts to be considered by an EIS, including: (1) all connected actions, cumulative actions, and similar actions; (2) alternatives; and (3) impacts.

Scoping Document 1 - SD1 - Presents the applicant's initial assessment of the range of issues potentially impacted by a proposed action. The public may respond to the issues outlined in SD 1. For the Oroville Relicensing process SD 1, presents a description of the project and an opportunity for the public to comment on the full scope of issues identified by the applicant and the public to date.

NEPA: *National Environmental Policy Act* - Federal legislation that establishes environmental policy for the nation. It provides an interdisciplinary framework for federal agencies to prevent environmental damage and contains "action forcing" procedures to ensure that federal agency decision-makers take environmental factors into account.

CEQA: *California Environmental Quality Act* - California legislation enacted the year after the National Environmental Policy Act that establishes State regulations providing for an interdisciplinary framework to consider environmental implications of public agency decision makers' actions.

Oroville Facilities Relicensing Schedule



Oroville and the Maidu People – A Glimpse into the Past

This summer, Lake Oroville is expected to be at the lowest levels since the summers of 1991 and 1992. According to Curtis Creel, Chief of the State Water Project Operations Planning Branch for the DWR, Lake Oroville is predicted to be 175 feet below the crest of the dam by the end of September. One result of the lower lake levels is the exposure of Native American sites and artifacts. These sites and artifacts are strictly protected under state and federal law and fines for disruption or looting range from $200 to imprisonment. These resources serve as a window into the past and allow us a glimpse of the people native to the Oroville area.

California State Parks

Maidu

The Northwestern Maidu were a hunting and gathering people that lived in autonomous village communities throughout the Oroville region. Built around a semi-subterranean assembly house and lodge, the Maidu's main villages provided a central ceremonial and political focus for nearby affiliated satellite villages. The communities had defined territories and a "head man" that was chosen by tribal consensus based on his wealth, intelligence, and leadership qualities.

European Contact and Conflict

The history of Native American contact with early European settlers is punctuated with tragedy, and the Maidu experience was no exception. Exposure to unknown diseases carried by explorers and trappers in the early 1800s had a devastating impact on local tribes. An 1833 malaria epidemic killed an estimated 75% of the local Maidu population.

The Gold Rush of 1849 brought not only another round of disease to the Maidu, but a flood of gold seekers that pushed the Maidu out of their villages. Treaties were negotiated with the tribes, but the U.S. Congress failed to ratify them. Conflicts continued between the native people and the settlers, and in 1863 the government forced the Butte County Maidu from their homes for a two-week "Death March" to the Round Valley Reservation in Mendocino County that many did not survive.

Some Maidu avoided capture or successfully remained hidden after being ordered to Round Valley, and

State Museum Resource Center

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Oroville Facilities and State Water Project's Power Operations

State Water Project Power Needs

California's State Water Project (SWP) is one of the largest water and power systems in the world, pumping water through more than 660 miles of reservoirs, dams, aqueducts, pumping plants, powerplants, and pipelines from Plumas County in the north to Riverside County in southern California.

The power required to store and move water makes the SWP the single largest user of power in California, requiring on average over 12.2 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a year. As a comparison, Californians used on average 6.84 kWh of energy per household during 2000.

Total power generation of all SWP facilities is 6 billion kWh per year on average. This means that SWP power generations meet about 50% of the average need, thus making the SWP a net user of electricity. DWR must purchase power from outside power generators to operate the SWP.

Power Generation at the Oroville Facilities

The power needs of the SWP are met, in part, by the output of the three powerplants that are a part of the Oroville Facilities – Edward Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant, Thermalito Diversion Dam Powerplant, and Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant. The hydroelectric facilities at Oroville have a combined licensed capacity of approximately 762 megawatts (MW), generating about 2.2 billion kWh in a median water year, or approximately 18% of the average SWP need.

The Edward Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant, located underground in the left abutment of Oroville Dam, is the largest of the three powerplants with a capacity of 645MW. Power is generated as water is released from Lake Oroville through the Edward Hyatt Powerplant and into the Feather River. However, water may not pass through this plant just once. If energy price and power availability factors are favorable, the water stored in Thermalito Afterbay may be pumped through the Thermalito Pumping-Generation Plant back into the Thermalito Forebay and eventually into Lake Oroville. The water can then flow through the Edward Hyatt Pumping-Generating Plant again, thereby

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